

Attorney Docket: K-2081
S.N.: 10/766,396

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending in the application. By this Amendment, Claims 1, 5 and 9 are amended. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the following Remarks.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the courtesies extended to Applicant's representative during the April 6, 2006 telephone interview. The sum and substance of the interview is contained in the above amendment and following Remarks.

Entry of this Amendment is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 because this Amendment: (a) places the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (b) does not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration because the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; (c) does not add claims without deleting a corresponding number of claims; and (d) places the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary.

With respect to item (b) above, independent Claims 1, 5 and 9 filed in the Amendment dated November 15, 2005 defined a zero centerline toolholder assembly in which a centerline, LT, of the toolholder is aligned at a fixed, non-zero angle, δ , with respect to an axis, P, that is substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal axis, LW, of a work piece based on a geometry of the cutting insert.

It is respectfully submitted that the scope of the claimed invention recited in independent Claims 1, 5 and 9 as amended herein has not changed or is narrower in scope as compared to the earlier-filed Claims 1, 5 and 9. Specifically, the independent Claims 1, 5 and 9 as amended herein more clearly define the feature of the centerline, LT, of said toolholder being aligned at a single, fixed, non-zero angle, δ , with respect to an axis, P, that is substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal axis, LW, of a work piece based on a geometry of the cutting insert for the duration of the machining operation on the work piece to more clearly distinguish this feature from the cited art. Thus, a new search and/or consideration is not required by the Examiner with respect to amended Claims 1, 5 and 9 as amended herein. In view of the foregoing, entry of this Amendment is thus respectfully requested.

I. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

1. The Office action rejects Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9-12, 15 and 17 under 35 U.S.C.

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§103(a) over Yamazaki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,453,782, hereinafter "Yamazaki") in view of Aebi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,940,369, hereinafter "Aebi") and Baba (JP 2000133436, hereinafter "Baba"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As agreed during the telephone interview, Yamazaki requires that the machine tool 1 use computed cutting patterns PAT1 for the square screw, as shown in Fig. 3, and PAT2 for the triangular screw, as shown in Figs. 4a and 4b, that vary the degree of the B axial angle. Quite obviously, Yamazaki requires that the machine tool 1 be located at several different locations during a screw machining operation on a work piece. By contrast, the claimed invention is directed to aligning the toolholder at a single, fixed, non-zero angle, δ , with respect to an axis, P, based on the geometry of the cutting insert for the duration of the machining operation on the work piece. Aebi and Baba add nothing to overcome this shortcoming in Yamazaki.

For at least this reason, Claims 1, 5 and 9 are allowable over the applied art. Claims 2-4 and 15, which depend from Claim 1, Claims 6 and 7, which depend from Claim 5, and Claims 10, 12 and 17, which depend from Claim 9, are likewise allowable over the applied art. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

2. The Office action rejects Claims 5, 8, 13, 14 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Yamazaki, Aebi, and Baba, and further in view of Katoh et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2004/0003690, hereinafter "Katoh"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 5, 8, 13, 14 and 16 depend from Claims 1, 5 and 8. For the same reasons discussed above, Claims 5, 8, 13, 14 and 16 are allowable over the applied art. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

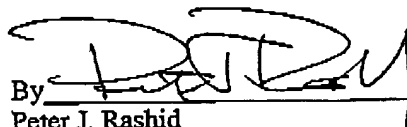
In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application is earnestly solicited.

Should Examiner Addisu believe anything further would be desirable in order to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,

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